

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 02316 281137Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

AF-10 /159 W

----- 100183

R 271600Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MT

1. IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN NATIONALIST PARTY DEPUTY LEADER VINCENT TABONE AND AMBASSADOR, TABONE SKETECHEDED OUT HIS VIEW OF PARTY FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY SHOULD NP REGAIN POWER. TABONE IMPLIED THAT THESE POINTS HAD BROAD AGREEMENT IN NP.

2. IN BRIEF, TABONE LISTED THE FOLLOWING: A. NEUTRALITY IN DISPUTES BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. B. A DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH NATO. C. NO FOREIGN FORCES STATIONED ON MALTA. D. MILITARY FACILITIES ON STANDBY BASIS WOULD BE PROVIDED, AND THERE COULD BE NATO COUNTRY SHIP VISITS.

3. TABONE ELABORATED THE POINT ON STATIONING OF FORCES BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL OBJECTION. NATIONALIST HOWEVER HAD BEEN BURNED IN PAST BY BRITISH MILITARY DRAW DOWNS WHICH HAD A SEVERE IMPACT IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF MALTESE WORKERS AT BRITISH MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. TABONE SAID MP WOULD WISH TO AVOID ANY SUCH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 02316 281137Z

POSSIBILITY IN THE FUTURE, SEEKING TO INSURE

EMPLOYMENT FOR MALTESE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND TOURISM. AT THE SAME TIME, TABONE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO PRESENCE OF NATO CARETAKER PERSONNEL FOR MILITARY FACILITIES. HE WAS ALSO QUITE CLEAR IN INCLUDING SIXTH FLEET ALONG WITH OTHER NATO COUNTRY SHIPS WHICH WOULD BE WELCOME TO PAY VISITS TO MALTA.

4. REFERENCE TO MEDITERRANEAN DISPUTES AT THIS TIME MUST CERTAINLY BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF ARAB -ISRAELI PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE SITUATION COULD OF COURSE CHANGE BETWEEN PRESENT AND SUCH TIME AS NATIONALIST MIGHT RETURN TO POWER, IT APPEARS TO US THAT TABONE'S OUTLINE PROVIDES A REASONABLY PROMISING PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO NEGOTIATE A NEW RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF MINTOFF'S SUCCESS IN EXTRACTING FANANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS FROM NATO COUNTRIES, NATIONALISTS COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO REFRAIN FROM DEMANDING SOME TANGIBLE REWARDS FOR A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. SECURITY GUARANTEES THROUGH A DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD BE ONLY PART OF THE QUID PRO QUO.GETZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, MILITARY BASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973VALLET02316  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** VALLETTA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973119/aaaaagmm.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN SPEAKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MT, NATO, (TABONE, VINCENT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005